



Congressman Joe Pitts' Record On Jobs and Fiscal Restraint:

Jobs - Congress cannot “snap its fingers” and create new jobs. Jobs and prosperity come from the good ideas, hard work, and wise investments of the American people. Congress can help create a good climate for job creation by enacting sound tax, fiscal, and regulatory policies. Congress also plays an important role in helping those who are out of work. That is why I have voted to extend unemployment compensation benefits for unemployed Pennsylvanians, despite my objection to how Congress pays for this.

Fiscal Restraint – People sometimes point out that it is easy for me to complain about government spending now that my party is in the minority. They rightly want to know what my record was before 2006.

- I voted against Republican-written appropriations bills one-third of the time, usually because they spent too much. I also unsuccessfully urged the Bush Administration to veto bloated appropriations bills.
- I voted against President Bush’s signature initiative, the No Child Left Behind Act, because I felt it was an expensive and inappropriate federal intrusion into local and state authority.
- I voted against President Bush’s bank “bailout” just like I voted against President Obama’s “stimulus” plan.
- I do not engage in “earmarks.”
- From 1997 to 2000, as a member of the House Budget Committee, I helped negotiate the only four balanced budgets Congress has written since the Johnson Administration. In each of those years, we actually paid off part of the government’s debt.
- As a state legislator, I served as House Appropriations Committee Chairman for eight years, balancing the state budget each year.



AN UPDATE ON THE ECONOMY FROM Congressman **Joe Pitts**

Dear Constituent,

As the new year begins, it is important for you to know what I’ve been doing to make sure 2010 is a year that will restore prosperity to the American economy. I hope you’ll take a few minutes to read this update on what I’ve been doing.

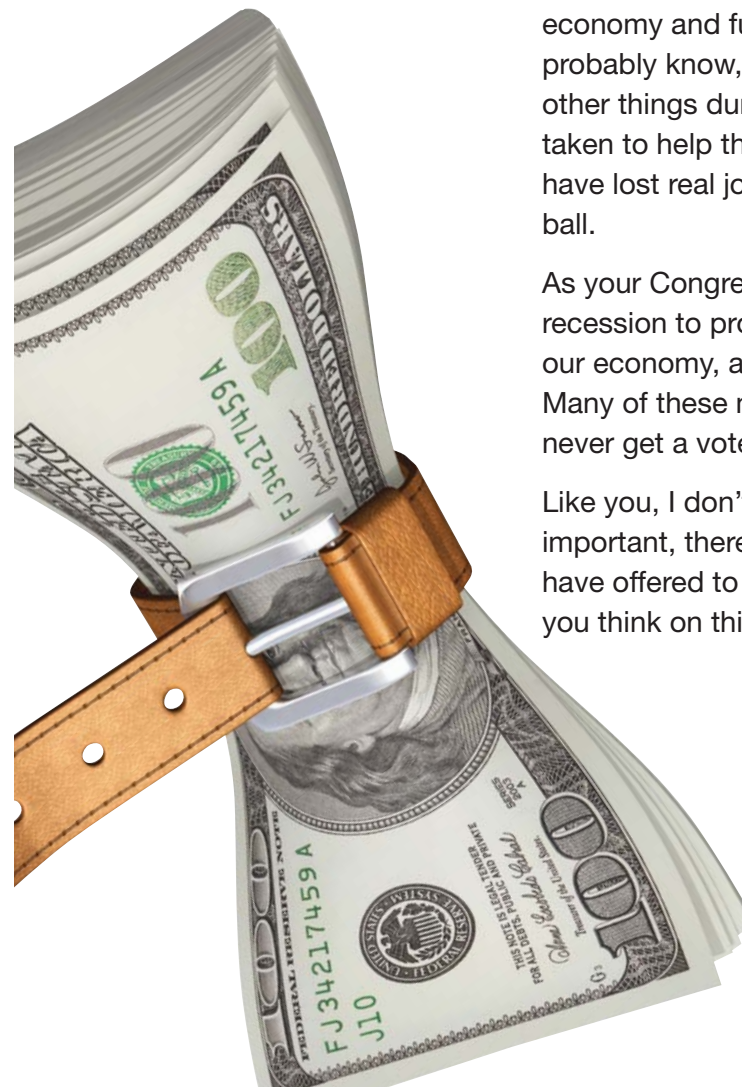
Unemployment in Pennsylvania is now at a disturbingly high 8.9 percent. Most Americans have lost a lot of money on their investments and in their homes. While things are improving, building a strong economy and full employment are still crucial national priorities. As you probably know, I have been critical of Congress for being distracted by other things during this recession. Many of the actions Congress has taken to help the economy have not been very effective. Real people have lost real jobs, and I don’t think Congress has had its eye on the ball.

As your Congressman, I have been working throughout this recession to promote measures that would put American families, our economy, and our nation back on a sure financial footing. Many of these measures have strong bipartisan support, but never get a vote.

Like you, I don’t like pointless partisanship and bickering. It’s important, therefore, that you know which constructive ideas I have offered to help our economy. I hope you’ll let me know what you think on this and the other issues we’ll be facing this year.

Sincerely,

Joe



Ten Things Congress Should Do To Help The Economy:

1 Keep Taxes Consistently Low – Every dollar you spend grows the economy. Every dollar the government takes away in taxes *removes* money from the economy. High taxes cost jobs. Seesawing tax rates discourage business investment, making businesses unsure of what the future will bring. That also costs jobs.

- In 2001, Congress cut taxes for every American. That law will expire next year. Congress should make it permanent.
- Permanently reducing the capital gains tax will encourage personal and business investment.

2 Balance the Budget – For the fiscal year that ended September 30, 2009, the federal government recorded a deficit of \$1.4 trillion, the highest in history and almost \$1 trillion more than the previous year. In November, *The New York Times* reported that because of the huge \$12 trillion debt, the government “faces a payment shock similar to those that sent legions of overstretched homeowners into default on their mortgages.” The deficit is a severe threat to our future prosperity. Congress must stop spending more than it has.

3 Regulate Wisely – If the economy were a football game, it would be government’s job to be the referee. We need clear and consistent rules that rein in greed and foolishness without stifling creativity and the free market.

- Congress was to blame for abuses at Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Congress must do a better job of minding the store.
- Bankruptcy laws must be fixed so that no bank or business is “too big to fail.” Corruption and greed must face real consequences. I support legislation to do this, **the Consumer Protection and Regulatory Enhancement Act, H.R. 3310**.

4 Make Energy Cheaper – Every part of our economy consumes gas, electricity, and other forms of energy. High energy costs mean less growth and fewer jobs.

- **The SAFE Nuclear Act, HR 3448**. I introduced this bipartisan bill to spur the construction of safe and clean nuclear power plants. This will increase our supply of American-made energy and protect the environment.

5 Build Infrastructure – Better highways and bridges will make a better economy. “Time is money,” as the saying goes, and Americans spend too much time waiting in traffic. This slows down the delivery of goods and services, and that slows our economy down and costs jobs.

- Unfortunately, only 6 percent of the “stimulus” passed last year was spent on infrastructure.

6 Open New Markets – The recession hit farmers and manufacturers especially hard with a 50 percent drop in international demand for our exports. Congressional inaction on pending trade agreements with friendly nations like South Korea, Panama, and Colombia is hurting our economy and inflating unemployment.

7 Encourage Saving – Saving and investing is not only good for the investor, it’s good for the businesses we invest in. Americans need to save more and invest more.

- **The Savings for Working Families Act, H.R. 1234** – I introduced this bill to help low-income families save for the future with matching contributions from financial institutions, non-profits, and Indian tribes.
- **Help Kids Save for College Act, H.R. 2500** – I introduced this bill to make it easier for families to save money for their children’s college tuition by allowing matching contributions from employers.

8 Improve Education – Education levels are directly connected to individual and national prosperity. America’s colleges and universities are the best in the world, but many of our grade schools and high schools are failing.

- **The Dollars to the Classroom Act**. I have long promoted this bill to guarantee that 95 cents of each federal education dollar will be spent in the classroom instead of on bureaucracy. I will be reintroducing it this month.
- Encourage innovation and competition in public education through charters schools, school choice, and merit-based tenure and promotion.

9 Reform Healthcare – Families, employers, and the government are all spending too much on healthcare. This robs money from other parts of the economy. Real health reform will reduce, rather than increase, what we pay as a nation for health insurance.

- **The Small Business CHOICE Act, H.R. 859** – I introduced this bill with Rep. Nydia Velazquez, a Democrat from New York, to make it cheaper and easier for small businesses to provide health insurance for their employees.

10 Encourage Strong Families – Strong and stable families produce more productive citizens and use fewer government services.

- Permanently end the “marriage penalty” in the tax code.
- Preserve the bipartisan 1996 welfare reform law.

Ten Things Congress Has Done That I Believe Have Hurt the Economy

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| ✗ Spend too much. | ✗ Bail out poorly-run businesses. |
| ✗ Raise taxes on individuals and families. | ✗ Fail to protect and reform entitlement programs. |
| ✗ Make energy artificially expensive. | ✗ Ignore trade opportunities with eager markets. |
| ✗ Misallocate stimulus dollars to pet projects. | ✗ Maintain the second-highest corporate tax rate in the industrialized world. |
| ✗ Regulate unwisely and inconsistently. | ✗ Pander to special interests. |

Please call or visit one of my offices any time I can be of help to you!

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